



Karen Countryman-Roswurm, LMSW, Ph.D.

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Bio-Sketch

Dr. Karen Countryman-Roswurm is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Combating Human Trafficking (CCHT) as well as an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at Wichita State University. Grounded in her own life experiences of overcoming streets and systems (e.g. child welfare/foster care, criminal/legal judicial systems, etc.), Dr. Roswurm has more than two decades of personal, professional practice, and community-based research expertise in the Anti-Trafficking Movement. Operating from various first-hand vantage points, she has served individuals facing multiple forms of “ism’s,” as well as poverty, neglect, abuse, homelessness, relationship violence, and exploitation, both domestically and internationally. Acting as a street outreach worker, project coordinator for gender-specific programming, therapist, community response organizer, human rights advocate, and public policy developer, Dr. Roswurm has served as a forerunner in the Movement by advancing prevention, intervention, and prosperity-promoting strategies through her *Lotus Anti-Trafficking Model™*. She has more than twenty publications and has facilitated hundreds of keynotes, workshops, and discussions. Largely known for her advocacy to reduce the criminalization of young people who are runaway/homeless and/or who have survived commercial sexual exploitation, dearest to her heart are recognitions that reflect her direct-service commitment to survivors including the *Martin Luther King Jr. Award*, the *Inaugural Pat Ayars Mentoring Award*, and participation in *The National Convening on Trafficking and Child Welfare in the White House*. To learn more about Dr. Karen Countryman-Roswurm and the services of CCHT visit <http://combatinghumantrafficking.org>.

Keynote and Workshop Presentation Topics

(specific details and titles will be created or altered to meet individual needs of group; please see full vita for additional presentation titles and topics)

- Resilience.
- Trauma across a lifespan.

- Cumulative risk.
- Suicide.
- Foster care.
- Adoption.
- Factors that contribute to malleability and holistic prosperity in the midst of marginalization.
- Healthy personal, familial, and intimate partner relationships.
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)/Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and other forms of sexual exploitation/human trafficking.
- Survivor-leadership.
- Best practices for victim-centered/survivor-informed/overcomer-led services.
- Lotus™ Operating Principles (e.g. trauma-informed care; motivational interviewing; stages of change; harm reduction; narrative practices, etc.).
- Increasing healthy relationships and family stability.
- Increasing education, self-sufficiency, and quality of life among marginalized children, youth, and families.
- Childhood trauma and resilience.
- Children in Need of Care (CINC) and social welfare.
- Homeless, Runaway, and Throwaway Youth (HRTY).
- Abuse and exploitation.
- The relationship between poverty, homelessness, and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Trauma and resilience informed organizational culture change.
- Empowering practices in policy, direct service, and research.
- Relationship/intimate partner violence prevention and intervention.
- Influence of self and social cognition in healthy relationships.
- Cognitive schemata of sexual exploitation and relationship violence survivors.
- Complex trauma.
- Mentoring.
- Youth and adult partnerships/positive youth development.
- Gender specific service programming as a means to promote self-actualization and self-esteem in efforts to reduce high-risk behaviors among youth.
- System demoralization and building systems of care that protects children and promotes families.
- Justice and social service reform.
- Connections between the influence of social and emotional intelligence of human service providers and the demoralization of client populations.
- System procedures to support families providing kinship care.
- Improving and developing systems that promote adoption and support adoptive families.
- Factors of strength and resilience among marginalized populations.
- Prevention with marginalized populations primarily around the issues of strengths building, positive relationship building, empowerment, etc.
- Creating community collaborations in efforts to bridge service gaps for marginalized populations.
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration and community action.
- The connections between pornography and commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking.
- Connections between foster care, runaway and homeless youth, human trafficking, etc.

Sample Speaking Videos

(please see full vita for additional presentations and/or video links; please also note that due to the private nature of Dr. Roswurm's personal story, many of her presentations are not video recorded and/or shared on the internet)

1. Legislating Love, Not LockUp: A Look At Progress and Pitfalls of Anti-Trafficking Law. Video Posted from Talk at the 2018 Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit Hosted by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. Can be Found at <https://vimeo.com/272428945>.
2. Pursuing Your Firm Persuasion: Combating Human Trafficking and the Criminalization of Kids in "Care." Video Posted from Connection Talk August 2018 Via MANY Network. Can be Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcu34Dxei0Q> or <http://www.manynet.org/2018/04/11/connectionpgh-talk-pursuing-your-firm-persuasion-combating-human-trafficking-and-the-criminalization-of-kids-in-care/>.
3. Dr. Countryman-Roswurm Speaks Out on Trafficking and Its Connection to Pornography. Video Interview Post January 2017 and May 2017 Via Porn Harms and Fight the New Drug. Can be Found at vimeo.com/190317258 or <http://truthaboutporn.org/media/dr-karen-countryman-roswurm-lmsw-ph-d/>.
4. Karen Countryman-Roswurm 2015 WSU Board of Trustees' Award Recipient. Video Can be Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krD-isZtBc>.
5. Countryman-Roswurm, K. (August, 2013). Creating Contexts of Resilience and Prosperity. Invited TED Speaker, TEDxCambridge. Cambridge University, United Kingdom. Due to Storm and Electric Problems Professional Recording Was Not Able to Occur. Though the Quality is Poor, Video Can Be Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvyHNnuk3EM>.

Sample Media Articles/Video

(please see full vita for additional media interviews)

1. Statewide Initiative Targets Sex Buyers. July 9th, 2018. KAKE News.
2. Dozens of Possible Child Trafficking Victims Have Been Jailed in Kansas. June 22nd, 2018. The Wichita Eagle.
3. Runaway Foster Kids Raise Sex-Trafficking Fears in Kansas. February 16th, 2018. The Wichita Eagle.
4. Modern Day Slavery: A Look at Kansas' Human Trafficking Laws. February 12th, 2017. KAKE/ABC.com.
5. Awareness Fosters Hope for Often-Invisible Sex-Trafficking Victims in the Midwest. January 10th, 2017. Global Sisters Report, National Catholic Reporter.
6. Wichita Child-Trafficking Victim, Now 18, May Soon Be Released from Jail. March 22nd, 2016. The Wichita Eagle.
7. Wichita Child-Trafficking Victim, Now 18, Charged with Trafficking. March 15th, 2016. The Wichita Eagle.
8. Social Work Today. Interview and featured article (including promotional advertising for WSU, School of Social Work) in highly recognized newsmagazine for Social Workers. January 19th, 2016. **Social Work Today.**

9. *Human Trafficking Expert: 'If We Really Care About This, We Don't Need to Hear the Stories Anymore.'* November 4th, 2015. **KMUW**.
10. *Countryman-Roswurm to Serve as Expert at White House Event.* June 8th, 2015. Wichita State News.
11. *Girls In Justice (invited guest due to published article "Who's Pimpin Now?: How our system is Exploiting the Exploited."* Interview and podcast with **USA Today News**, Eileen Rivers. April, 2015.
12. *Heat Raiser.* Featured in the Kansas Health Foundation/Kansas Leadership Center's publication, *The Journal*. Winter 2015, 7, 1, 70-76.
13. *40 Under 40 – Karen Countryman-Roswurm, Wichita State University.* July, 31st, 2014. Wichita Business Journal.
14. ***Karen Countryman-Roswurm - Fidelity Bank Bravely Onward/Impact Series Feature. Monday, September 16th, 2013. Video interview with KPTS.***
15. *The Domestic Labor and Sex Trafficking of Homeless Youth.* Filmed for interview by Mark Horvath. September 2013. Invisible People.
16. *Wichita State Professor to be Featured Speaker at Cambridge University TEDx Conference.* Wednesday, August 14th, 2013. The Wichita Eagle.
17. *Director Discusses Center's Aims in Helping Youths.* Sunday, March 24th, 2013. Wichita Eagle.
18. *What I Have Been Through is Not Who I Am.* Filmed as a *SME* in Survivor-Centered Care for HT/DST Survivors. Documentary and extended interviews. April/October 2011. **WITNESS and End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)-USA.**
19. *Sexual Exploitation of Homeless Youth.* Interview with Mark Horvath. July 2010. Invisible People.
20. ***Karen Lost and Found Part 1-8.*** May 7-13th, 2000. The Wichita Eagle. Can be Found at <https://www.kansas.com/latest-news/article111972.html>.